

Species

Tityus (Atreus) crassicauda: New Scorpion Species from Ecuadorian Andes

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A new species of scorpion *Tityus (Atreus) crassicauda* has been discovered from the extraordinarily biodiversity rich region of the Ecuadorian Andes. The new species belongs to the genus *Tityus*, which is part of the scorpion family Buthidae. This genus has more than 200 species. Researchers said the animal is classified as a medium-sized scorpion, which has a body length of 5 centimeters. The scorpion family can have a body length of the smallest size that is 3 inches and the biggest species have a body length of 12 centimeters. Researchers reveal, each scorpion has venom glands, including the *Tityus* genus known to produce a powerful toxin and can be deadly to humans. It is distinguished by reddish brown overall coloration, broken by peculiar decoration of 3 longitudinal brown stripes, separated by yellow zones. Scorpions are considered interesting animals, but the animals appear to have a negative stigma as a 'killer' man. Studies on scorpion focused primarily on descriptive taxonomy and general anatomy, followed by some medical research on biochemical toxins. Studies on scorpion greatly expanded to include many aspects of the biological evolution of the species of interest. Many authors working on the floras and faunas of the Neotropical region seem to agree that the possible 'epicentre' of global diversity occurs namely in the tropical and subtropical Andean region (the upper Amazon, North of Peru, and most of Ecuador and Southern Colombia). The speciation pattern of the scorpions corresponds to the explosive model proposed by Gentry for plants of the genus *Gasteranthus* which have a similar range of distribution. The proposed mechanism operating process is associated with some type of genetic transience associated with genetic drift in small founder populations, a process also postulated for Hawaiian *Drosophila*.

REFERENCE

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